

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

STUPAK, Bart (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Michigan
Elected 1992 to 103rd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Milwaukee, Wisconsin - 29 February 1952

Home: Menominee, Michigan

Marital Status: Married (Laurie) - 2 children (son died May 2000)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: NW Michigan College, A.A., 1972; Saginaw Valley State College, B.S., 1977; Thomas

M. Cooley Law School, J.D., 1981

Profession: Lawyer; Michigan state trooper

Military: None specified

Political: MI House, 1989-90. Ran unsuccessfully for the State Senate, 1990. Defeated former US Rep Philip Ruppe (R) in the redrawn 1st District, succeeding retiring Rep Bob Davis (R) who had represented much of the 1st. Elected with 55% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 58% of the votes and in 2002 with 68%.

Rep Stupak is a liberal who tends to be conservative when it comes to social issues. Ran on a platform of congressional reform. Favors a balanced-budget constitutional amendment only if other fiscal reform efforts fail. Supports middle-class tax relief, a national health-care system and safety improvements to the nation's infrastructure. Opposes abortion and gun control. Is concerned about the economy in upstate Michigan. Threatened to vote against (was persuaded not to) Clinton's budget/tax package because of the closing of K.I. Sawyer AFB (Almanac of American Politics, 1996). Appointed in Jul93 to the Government Operations Cmte. Introduced legislation to target 10% of the savings from a closed base to the affected community; was incorporated in the House passed FY94 DoD authorization as an amdt directing a study to determine its feasibility. With other colleagues, sent a letter to the SecDef questioning the wisdom of the Army's Guard/Reserve restructuring plan saying it would increase the budget and could degrade combat readiness.

Served on the Armed Services Cmte during the 103rd Congress but lost that seat, and one on the Merchant Marine Cmte which was abolished, at the start of the 104th Congress. Introduced legislation to impose new rules on House members who switch parties.

In the 106th Congress, a shipment of weapons-grade plutonium passed through Michigan on its way to Canada as part of the Parallex Project, a joint US-Russian experiment to determine whether commercial nuclear reactors in Canada can use material from decommissioned Russian nuclear weapons as fuel. Rep Stupak remarked that he was very pleased that there was no problem. He has pushed for greater safety measures after the transfer was announced. Offered an unsuccessful amdt to the superfund bill (H.R. 2580) that would have reverted to original law that allows EPA to intervene in a state program cleanup if the threat of release poses an "imminent and substantial endangerment to public health." Credited the Marquette County Board with assuring that the community around K. I. Sawyer AFB survived after the base was closed. Called for the University of California to be stripped of its management role at two of the nation's nuclear laboratories following the furor over security breaches.

In the 107th Congress, supported the construction of a WWII War Memorial, though admitted to casting a vote in error against the bill, HR 1696.

Additional: Received a disability retirement from the Michigan State Police in Feb84.

AF Bases: K.I. Sawyer AFB (closed 30Sep95); Calumet AFS

COMMITTEES

